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STATEMENT ON EAST TIMOR TO THE UN COMMITTEE OF 24 AUGUST 1986

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Mr Chairman,

In the first place, before I begin my statement, I would like to express my appreciation of this opportunity to to adress this UN Committee of 24. I have come to convey the views of the Dutch Indonesian Committee with regard to the East Timorese tragedy, in order to contribute to the finding of a solution for this question. A solution which does justice to the rights and desires of the group most directly concerned: the Maubere people.

Mr Chairman,

On 10 july last, a sharply worded resolution conserning East Timor was accepted by the European Parliament(EP). With an overwhelming majority of 162 to 3 votes, and only 4 abstentions, the EP condemned the violent Indonesian occupation of East Timor. In this resolution the EP calls upon the Indonesian gouvernment to end their violence inmediately and to honour the right of self-determination of the Maubere people. The European Community and its member states are requested to take steps to further the right of self-determination for the East Timorese people. Emphasis is placed on the necessity for a reprecentation of the Maubere people to take part in the negotiations on the future status of their country.

There is not only this,

More than 400 members of parliament from all parts of the world, signed a petition made up by Lord Avebury, requiring an active participation the East Timorese people in the curent negotiations between Indonesia and Portugal.

Recently 75 members of the Japanese Diet addressed thei UN Secretary-General with a message similar to that of Avebury.

Such a message was also sent bij 125 American members of Congress and 23 Senators to President Reagan before his journey to Bali.

Mr Chairman,

It is the second time that Indonesia, under the leadership of President Suharto, has extended its territority in an expansionistic manner. Twice International Law was brutally violated.

In 1969 the socalled 'Act of free choice' in West Papua was ertirely staged by the Indonesian regime. Even the designatedUN-observers could not but declare that there had been no question of a free choice. The recognition by the UN of this 'Act of free choice' and

the Indonesian annexation of West Papua might have been prompted by onther considerations than those of International Law.
After the Indonesian invasion of East Timor in 1975 another arbitrary 'Act of free choice' was undertaken in 1976. This time, however, such a flagrant violation of International Law recieved no approval in the United Nations.
Moreover, at this moment the European Parliament is conducting an inquiry into the legal situation that has arisen since Portugal joined the European Community.

The 1982 resolution, callingon the Secretary General of the United Nations "to initiate consultations with all parties directly conserned with a view to exploring avenues for achieving a comprehensive settlement for the problem" has not brought the implementation of self-determination any closer for the East Timorese people. The exclusion of the party most directly conserned - the East Timorese people - and the outright refusal of the Indonesian regime to discuss the question of self-determination are obviously instrumental to the failure to implement this resolution.

Mr Chairman,

Recent detailed reports on the military situation in East Timor show the continuation of a status quo. Neither of the belligerent parties (FRETILIN nor Indonesia) is able to force a military solution. And still many victims on both sides are to be counted each month. Despite of the continuing western military aid to Indonesia, also from those countries which abstained from voting in de UN on the question of East Timor, the Indonesian military potential does not appear to be able te break the widely supported anti-colonial resistance in the eastern part of Timor.
This status quo emphsizes even more the need for a 'comprehensive settlement for the problem', a solution which the FRETILIN had already adequately outlined in 1983, in the form of a peace plan from its present leader Xanana.

Mr Chairman,

To indicate the necessity for an early solution towards self-determination, I feel oblight to go into the Indonesian colonial policy in the eastern part of the island of Timor, in particular to some aspect of her population policy.

After a number of years of bloody and heavy fighting the Indonesian regime resolved to engage a large part of its airforce. The population, which had fled in their hundreds of thousands to the mountains, was continually harrassed by a large quantity of firebombs, which destroyed the harvests and crops. The ensuing famine forced thousands of East Timorese to leave the mountains and place themselves under Indonesian control. From 1979 onwards, over 150.000 East Timorese were forcibly and arbitrarily moved from their birth place and regrouped indiscrimminatily in 150 Daerah pemukiman, following the well-tried consept of the Strategic Hamlets from the American-Vietnamese War.

These Daerah pemukiman or settlement areas are defended by the idea 'to reinforce stability and security and facilitate all aspects of development activity' according to the Indonesian Secretary General for Internal Affairs in 1984. These 'consentration camps' as they are called by the East Timorese people themselves, are intended "to make population control easier and to provide food and medical aid, education and other amenities. It is the new Indonesian civilisation we are bringing, and it is not easy to civilise the backward peoples". This was said by an Indonesian official.

It will be no surprise to you that this concept is doomed to fail. This is illustrated by the fact that the Indonesian army (KODIM) has been setting up their own plantations where the people of the concentration camps are then forced to work, and, as expected, not in their own interest or for their own profit.

While the East Timorese people are being herded into these camps, where they are subjected to strict military control, and where a policy of creating food shortages is implemented, transmigrants, mostly form Bali, but also form Java have been flown in since 1982. This programme was officially announced in august 1984: "The decision is based on the consideration that the transmigrants, comprising model farmers, will serve as a workforce promoting the development scheme in the region". These transmigrants are settled in so-called 'desa potential', villages in a fertile area. In the end these 'model farmers' turned out to be no farmers at all. They complained of being forced to work on the land, for they had been send to East Timor expecting to become businessmen and civil servants (Sinar Harapan, 28 august 1985).

The myth of the Balinese 'model farmer' was necessary, however, to justify the transmigration programme for East Timor, for at the same time the birth control programme is defended with 'overpopulation' in East

Timor. The East Timorese governor, Carrascalao, stated in 1985 that "various problems have their origin in the population problem in East Timor, such as the imbalance of the number of children and the schools available, the unstability of housing and the inadequate number of hospitals compared to the needs of the population". He continued to say that "development activities have resulted in various improvements in the standard of living, but much more is needed in keeping with the aspirations of the people whose quality should be improved rather than their (the people's) number" (Berita tanpa Sensor, 26 april 1985).

I will speak on this subject later.

Statements by both Benny Murdani, Commander in Chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces, and Martono, minister of Transmigration, leave no doubt whatsoever about the purpose and intent of the transmigration programme. Murdani for example considers transmigration as "the only programme in the economic field that must quite categorically be tied in with defence and security considerations... The preparation of sites and the removal of obstacles to land availability need to be given special focus because the choice of locations is related to the concept of territorial management". The emphasis on the military and strategic orientation of transmigration was later again frankly admitted in september last year by Martono when he told transmigration-officials that "preparations are under way for a programme of transmigration sites based on the sapta marga model for application in border areas and areas with a so-called high security risk. These areas include the islands off the Sumatran coast, but also East Timor and in particular West Papua. Martono also emphasized that this form of transmigration would have priority in the coming period.

Mr Chairman,

More serious than the characteristic military control and the application of arbitrary brute force, were the direct consequences of the restrictions in movements and the arbitrary location of the 'new villages' far from the fertile grounds. Already in 1980(!) Donald E. Weatherbee, an enthousiastic supporter of the Indonesian annexation or East Timor, reported:"Flying over East Timor by helicopter, one is impressed by the thousands of acres of fields of corn, dry rice and pasture

now going back to waste: land whose utilization was absolutely essential fo support the population at a minimal subsistence level of existence". This Indonesian policy prevented the development of a minimal level of existence, with fatal consequences for tens of thousands of people.

Mr Chairman,

Before starting on the subject of family planning I would like to emphasize here that the War in East Timor is characterized by A World at War, 1983, published by the Washington based Centre for Defence Information, as the most bloody War but one since the Second World War. Conservative estimates of the number of victims since december 1975 are in the order of 200.000(!). This is about one third of the original population of East Timor. Even Indonesian figures amount to more than 100.000 victims!

Within this context, where an historical etnocide has taken place and where the remaining population has been put under entire and permanent control, the perfect conditions have been created for the Indonesian regime - withness its gruesome cynicism - to carry out an all-encompassing and unequalled birth control programme.

Both Mgr Belo, Bisshop of Dili, and his predecessor Mgr Da Costa Lopes reported that:

- the pill is massively given out without any information on what it is used for and there is no information whatsoever on Familiy Planning;
- there is a massive use of injectable hormone methods in 31,7% of the women covered by the programme, but they are not informed about the purposes of the "injection";
- experiments are carried out with new counterceptive methods but the users are not told of what is done and they are thus used as involuntary guinea pigs;
- there is involuntary sterilization of men and women when they are send to hospital.

In order to give an idea of the priorities set by the Indonesian Occupation Forces and to throw some light on the real purport of the Family Planning programme in East Timor, it might be illustrative to compare the birth control programme with the attention given to health care.

At this moment there are no less than 250 centres for birth control, which amounts to one centre for 325 fertile couples; using the official Indonesian figures for the number of fertile couples. The highest figure ever given for 'health centres' is 129, and that usually means poor hovels, as often as not abandoned by the medical staff, because Javanese doctors prefer to stay in Dili rather than lead a 'country life'. Moreover, available medical facilities are scarce and extensively used for wounded Indonesian soldiers. From the foregoing facts no onther conclusion can be drawn than that an almost all-including ethnocide is being systematically perpetrated according to plan.
The elimination of a whole people is at stake!

To complete this picture I am obliged to add that the World Bank is paying all expenses for this pre-meditated calamity. Knowing this, I am compelled to state that although the Indonesian Gouvernment is the chief culprit, all the countries allied to the World Bank are also responcible for the total and certain ethnocide of the East Timorese, if the present birth control programme is to be continued.

Mr Chairman,

The aformentioned aspects of the Indonesian population policy are mere illustrations of the colonial character of the Indonesian occupation of Eat Timor and its people.
In an interview with the daily paper Kompas the puppet Governor, Carrascalao, criticised the autorities for appointing too few East Timorese on administrative posts. Such a policy, he thought, might cause older people in particular "to feel that they were being colonized again". This sounds like the understatement of the year!

The facts of everyday life in East Timor are that more than 25% of the so-called 'devolopment funds' leave the island again via corruption and commission.
Much attention is paid to prestige projects like stadiums, TV-satellite connections and tele-communication. At the same time the freedom of movement of the East Timorese, however, is characterized by the fact that an 80 km journey over land requires the crossing of 16 check points!
In the schools Javanese culture is inculcated through Bahasa Indonesia; Pancasila courses are obligatory. While the people's own culture, such as celebrations, dances, traditional clothes, is only tolerated as folklore, their own identity is suppressed, colonial integration is forced on

them.

Mr Chairman,

In a word, there must be a stop to the Indonesian colonisation of East Timor. For almost 11 years the East Timorese people have been unremittingly fighting the Indonesian regime to their utmost ability. The common initiatives taken bij FRETILIN en UDT in East Timor and in the diplomatic field are an important factor in strengthening their continuing struggle for self-determination. Moreover, through this cooperation a full representation of the East Timorese people has been developed, that should on no account be ignored in negotiations concerning the definition of the future status of their country.

It is the duty of all member countries of the United Nations to speak up against all forms of colonialism and oppression, also against the Indonesian colonisation of East Timor. It is their duty to find avenues towards a really free exercise of the right of self-dtermination of the Maubere People!

Thank you.

New York, 15 august 1986.